

## **DVAHCS Explanation of Screenings and Treatment Services for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

The Durham VA Health Care System (DVAHCS) offers comprehensive COVID-19 screening and treatment services. When it comes to testing, we are taking samples on-site and getting them processed.

The facility is equipped with essential items and supplies to handle an influx of coronavirus cases and is following CDC and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) guidelines for testing and reporting.

To minimize risks for employees and Veterans, everyone who enters the Durham VA Health Care System campus, and outlying clinics, will be pre-screened. This may lengthen entry times, so patients are advised to allow for that when arriving for their appointments.

The screening consists of three questions:

1. Do you have a fever or worsening cough or shortness of breath or flu-like symptoms?
2. Have you or a close contact traveled to an area with widespread or sustained community transmission of COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset?
3. Have you been in close contact with someone, including health care workers, confirmed to have COVID-19?

Per CDC guidance and VA protocols, patients known to be at risk for a COVID-19 infection are immediately isolated to prevent potential spread to others.

Veterans and staff are encouraged to take everyday preventive actions to avoid being exposed to the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you are sick or becoming sick.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with symptoms, call the VA before going to the facility.

To reduce the exposure and spread of COVID-19, the Durham VA Health Care System has postponed non-essential procedures. The DVAHCS remains a fully functional VA medical facility, with many of the suspended services being converted to telehealth options for Veterans. Emergency, urgent care, and behavioral health services remain fully active.

Veterans impacted by this change are being contacted to reschedule appointments and are highly urged to seek the care for these suspended services via our telehealth options, [www.telehealth.va.gov](http://www.telehealth.va.gov).

We also are still offering critical services to our most vulnerable Veterans populations. Our team of DVAHCS social workers are spreading out across our 27-county region to offer various social services and mental health counseling remotely.

More information for Veterans is here: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/72615/vas-recommendations-help-slow-covid-19-virus/>

For more information about the Coronavirus, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

